

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Alain Villeneuve on June 18, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 4-5, 13, and 22-41 were cancelled.

Claims 6, 14, and 42 were amended as follows:

Claim 6. A kit comprising a [A] fluid collection device comprising a pair of fluid collectors, each comprising an absorbent substrate coated with a saccharide, said substrate comprising a mat of glass fibers at least substantially coated with polyvinyl alcohol, said fibers defining a plurality of pores, the pores in said mat having a pore size effective to at least substantially prevent lysing of red blood cells while permitting at least substantial separation of serum from red blood cells via differential wicking and a single superstrate, said fluid collectors ordinarily not being in fluidic contact with one another and each being generally fixed with respect to said superstrate, said superstrate having a pair of apertures, each defining a blood receiving opening and permitting access to a respective one of said fluid collectors, and further comprising a
dessicant, said dessicant being present in an amount effective to provide a dessicating protective effect on a blood fluid specimen.

Claim 14. A kit according to claim 42 [13], wherein said dessicant comprises silica.

Claim 42. A kit comprising: a fluid collection device having a fluid collector with an absorbent substrate coated with a saccharide, said substrate comprising a mat of glass fibers at least substantially coated with polyvinyl alcohol, said fibers defining a plurality of pores, the pores in said mat having a pore size effective to at least substantially prevent lysing of red blood cells while permitting at least substantial separation of serum from red blood cells via differential wicking and a superstrate, said fluid collector being generally fixed with respect to said superstrate, said superstrate having an aperture defining a blood receiving opening and permitting access to said fluid collector, and further comprising a dessicant, said dessicant being present in an amount effective to provide a dessicating protective effect on a blood fluid specimen.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 6-12, 14-15, 20-21, and 42 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record (Anaokar) fails to teach or fairly suggest a kit comprising a pair of fluid collectors, and a dessicant to provide a dessicating protective effect on a blood fluid specimen in combination with the remaining features and elements of the claimed invention. The prior art of record further fails to teach or fairly suggest a kit comprising instructions that are separate or integral with the fluid collection device, a requisition form that lists a plurality of test types, and a silica dessicant contained in a porous pouch.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The following prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Anaokar et al., McFarland et al., Friedman et al., May et al., Lee, Nahm et al., Vinogradov et al., Steinbiss et al., and Chandler.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LORE JARRETT whose telephone number is (571)272-7420. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. to Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on (571) 272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

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USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jill Warden/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1797

LORE JARRETT
Examiner
Art Unit 1797

6/18/09